

(b) and (c) Three Indian Ayurveda experts are working on an individual contract basis for a private sector clinic "Medical Centre NAAMI-Ayu, Moscow".

Break-through in the fight against AIDS

1538. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Switzerland Scientists have made a discovery which may be a break-through in the fight against AIDS, as has been reported in "DECCAN HERALD" of 8th June, 2001;

(b) whether Government have taken note of this discovery; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No such item has been found published in the "Deccan Herald" of 8th June, 2001.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply at (a).

Selective female abortions

1539. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing instances of selective female abortions;

(b) if so, the details of the action to be taken by Government to keep a check in this regard;

(c) whether Government have sought cooperation of the States and UTs in this matter; and

(d) if so, the views expressed by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to prevent the sex selective foeticide, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 banning disclosure of sex of foetus has been enacted and implemented in all States and UTs except J and K.

[6 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

The responsibility for implementation of the Act largely rests with the States/ Union Territories.

Appropriate authorities have been appointed in all States/UTs for taking action under the provisions of the Act. Advisory Committee(s) to aid and advise the Appropriate authorities have been appointed in all States/UTs except in Bihar and Lakshadweep who have been reminded to take urgent action on this.

The States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaign to make the public and service providers aware of the provisions of the Act. The States/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental Organisations giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act. After the Census 2001 figures became available, letters were addressed to the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs to give focussed attention to the issue of adverse sex ratio. Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs have also been addressed recently for following up on implementation of various provisions of the PNDT Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organised at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. Voluntary Organisations are also being involved to carry out projects regarding creating awareness about the provisions of the Act.

National Level Non-Governmental Organisations have been requested to take up projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/ clinics / law enforcing authorities and public at large.

A meeting of the Appropriate Authorities of States/UTs under the Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act was held on 30th June, 2001 in New Delhi for sensitizing them to take effective steps for enforcement of the law and for creating awareness at the grass root level.

Indian Medical Association in collaboration with UNICEF and National Commission for Women convened a religious leaders meet to seek consensus towards an effective strategy for elimination of female foeticide/infanticide on 24th June, 2001, at New Delhi. The aim of the meet was to reach a consensus amongst leaders of various religions seeking common call from all of them condemning female foeticide. In the meeting all religious leaders outrightly condemned the practice of female foeticide and gave a call to the citizens of India for shunning this inhuman practice.

To create public awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide and to implement the provisions of the PNDT Act, activities are undertaken through Government Media Unit viz. TV, Radio and Print media.

Workshops/Seminars are being organised at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. Non-Governmental Organisations are also being involved to carry out projects for generating awareness among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and public at large. The cooperation of the NGOs has also been elicited in listing and enumerating, within their jurisdiction, the name and address of premises where the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) is being performed, with a view to detect registered/unregistered clinics.

Eschismic heart disease

†1540. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether eschismic heart disease has turned as an epidemic in developing countries like India;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the measures being taken to prevent it; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, eschismic heart disease is becoming a major health problem in our country with more than 10% of the population in urban environment above the age of 35 years suffering from its manifestations. The prevalence in rural settings is still lower (4-5% of the population above the age of 35 years). Since the causes of this disease is attributed among others to individual life style and food habits the doctors are creating awareness among the people for adopting proper life style and food habits to control this disease.

Indicator for public health

1541. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) where the following three indicators of public health stand at the end of